

American Medical Association

Physicians dedicated to the health of America



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The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate
230 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

On behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA) and its physician and medical student members, I am writing to thank you for introducing S. 1058, the "Community Health Center Volunteer Physician Protection Act of 2005." In extending the medical liability protections of the Federal Tort Claims Act to physicians who volunteer at community health centers, this legislation would ensure that these facilities can continue to provide affordable health care to those who need it the most.

The AMA has long-standing policy supporting liability protection for volunteer medical services. Many of our physician members, both active and retired practitioners, are very interested in volunteering their services in community health centers. The risk of liability and the large increases in liability insurance premiums, however, are a major impediment for such physicians. By reducing the professional liability exposure of physicians who volunteer their time and medical skills, the "Community Health Center Volunteer Physician Protection Act of 2005" would help to increase the number of volunteer physicians in community health centers.

By encouraging physician volunteerism at community health centers, your legislation would improve access to health care for low-income, uninsured and underinsured Americans. The AMA is pleased to support S. 1058, and looks forward to working with you as this legislation moves forward in Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael D. Maves".

Michael D. Maves, MD, MBA